

# The Household Recycling Guide: What to Put in Your Bins

## Container Recycling:

The Red Bin



**Plastic**



**YES**

**ONLY containers smaller than 2.5 gallons are recyclable.**

Food containers (such as margarine, yogurt, cooking oil, condiments, peanut butter)  
Beverage bottles & jugs (soda, water, juice, milk)  
Personal care bottles (shampoo, soap, conditioner, etc.)  
Detergent bottles

**Empty & rinse. Discard caps & lids in trash.**

**NO**

Foam (commonly referred to as Styrofoam®) of *any kind*  
Bags of *any kind* (e.g. grocery, sandwich, frozen food pouches)  
Containers from hazardous materials (e.g. motor oil, antifreeze, pesticide, pool chemicals)  
Cups, plates, utensils, & straws  
Small food trays, egg cartons, & reusable plastic water bottles  
Wrap/sheeting (e.g. dry cleaner sheeting) & liners from food packaging  
Furniture & toys, packaging material from toys & electronics  
Bins, baskets, pails, buckets & trays  
Medicine/pill bottles, VCR, CD & DVD cases  
Swimming pools, flower pots, black plastic, hoses, PVC piping/tubing, tarps

**Steel (tin)**



Food & beverage cans, pet food cans, aerosol cans from food, laundry & health or beauty products

**Empty & rinse. Labels do not need to be removed.**

Hangers, scrap metal, toys  
Paint cans & hazardous material spray cans  
(e.g. insecticide, paint, adhesive, lubricant)

Car parts, fuel tanks  
Plumbing material/pipes  
Pots & pans, appliances

**Glass**



Food & beverage bottles & jars

**Empty & rinse. Discard lids in trash. Labels do not need to be removed.**

Ceramics, dishware, coffee mugs  
Baking dishes & cookware (e.g. Pyrex)  
Drinking glasses, vases  
Medicine bottles

Light bulbs, fluorescent lights  
Plate glass, windows & mirrors  
Eye glasses, glass art

**Aluminum**



Cans, pie & roasting pans, foil wrap

**Empty & rinse. OK to flatten.**

Siding  
Scrap  
Kitchen utensils, cooking & bakeware

**Cartons**



Milk & juice cartons; soymilk, soup & drink boxes

**Empty, rinse, & flatten. Remove plastic straws.**

Foil-wrapped beverage pouches, frozen juice cartons  
Frozen food packaging, plastic straws

## Paper Recycling:

The Blue Bin



**YES**

Newspaper, inserts, magazines, junk mail  
White, colored, glossy & construction paper  
Shredded paper (place in a paper bag)  
Corrugated cardboard (grease & food-free pizza boxes OK)  
Boxboard (such as cereal, pasta, cracker & nasal tissue boxes)  
Gift bags, cards, boxes & wrap (no metallic embossing or foil)  
Phone & paperback books, spiral-bound notebooks, hanging file folders

**Clean paper only. Flatten boxes.**

**Envelope windows, staples, paper clips, tape OK.**

**NO**

Soiled paper (food, pet waste, paint)  
Soda, beer, egg, & frozen juice cartons  
Take-out containers, paper towels, napkins, cups  
Butter & margarine boxes  
Glossy boxes that show white strands when torn (frozen food boxes)  
Tissues & tissue paper  
Hardcover books  
Tyvek (plastic—won't rip) or padded envelopes  
Stickers & sticker sheeting  
Copy paper packaging  
Blueprints